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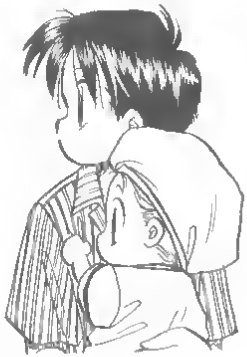
MY CLASSMATE NANAMI TAKENAKA...
HE SEEMS TO WORRY THAT HE'S NOT MANLY ENOUGH.
...IS A VERY CALM AND QUIET BOY.
I'LL SEW IT ON FOR YOU.
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOUR BUTTON'S ABOUT TO COME OFF
ENOKI
DID YOU SEE THAT APRON I MADE IN HOME EC? I'M REALLY GOOD AT SEWING. YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO TAKE YOUR SHIRT OFF
I DON'T MIND.
WHAT?! NO, THAT'S OKAY



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BUT THEY CAN BECOME MEN AT ANY TIME.
YEAH ...
MY MOM USED TO SAY THAT MEN NEVER GROW UP.
UH-OH... HE'S DIGGING HIMSELF INTO A HOLE
YOU'RE STILL A KID. I JUST THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE MORE INTERESTED IN PLAYING GAMES AND STUFF.
OH. THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.
ALL DONE.
THERE.
...I THOUGHT TAKENAKA ...MIGHT REALLY BE A COOL PERSON.
THAT'S WHEN ...
TAKENAKA ...
...WAS ALWAYS SMILING.
HEY, IT TURNED OUT WELL. IT'S NOT PULLING.
THANKS
STOP PRAISING YOURSELF, WILL YOU?
IN FACT, JUST THE OTHER DAY...
THEY STARTED TALKING ABOUT WHO THEY THOUGHT WAS THE BEST LOOKING.
SOME BOYS IN OUR CLASS WERE LOOKING AT A CELEBRITY MAGAZINE.
YES.
YOUR HUSBAND HERE KEEPS YOU BUSY, HUH?
HE'S VERY CONSIDERATE.
MY DARLING ALWAYS NEEDS MY HELP.
HE HAS A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR, TOO.
I WONDERED.
WILL HE BE OFFENDED"
...TO EAVESDROP, BUT I HAPPENED TO BE WITHIN HEARING DISTANCE.
SHE LOOKS NICER THAN THE OTHERS
I LIKE THE GIRL ON THE LEFT.
TAKENAKA HAPPENED TO PASS BY AT THAT MOMENT ...
...AND HE JOINED IN THE CONVERSATION.
WELL, MORE THAN I'M INTERESTED IN BOYS.
...WAS HIS ANSWER.
HUH?
YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GIRLS?
TAKENAKA ...
I DIDN'T MEAN ...

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HUH? WHY NOT?
N-NO WAY!!
WHAT ?!
..WEAR IT TO SCHOOL TOMOR-ROW? ♡
WILL YOU..
IS THIS A REBEL LIOUS PHASE?
GOOD NIGHT.
I'M GOING TO BED
SHIIK
YOU WOULDN'T UNDER-STAND, MOM
ABOUT MY VOICE HANG-ING,
..A LOT OF THINGS LIKE..
I WANT TO ASK DAD
ZZZ...
BLINK
...IT HAP-PENED TO HIM..
I WONDER WHEN
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP

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Author's Note Part 6

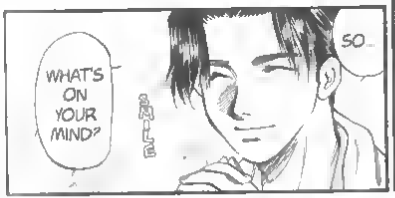
Hi. This is the last author's note for this volume. In this chapter, Takenaka talks to Takuya's dad about a wet dream he had. Takuya's father tells him "It is a normal physiological phenomenon." But let me say this for the sake of the little boys who are reading this--some boys never have them. So don't think you're weird if you don't.

I got a lot of flak when I started drawing this chapter, but I stuck to my guns and did it. Now I'm glad I did.

I felt that the problems that girls face, like their budding breasts and menstrual cycles, are dealt with a lot in stories, but boys go through stages too--their voices change, they have wet dreams, and they get body hair as they mature. I was told that this subject would make girls turn away, but I don't think so. What do you think?

See you again in Volume 11! ♡ Goodbye and thanks!!

ARE YOU DONE TALKING?
..BUT I HAD NO IDEA WHAT THEY TALKED ABOUT.
ALL I KNEW WAS..
OKAY
DAD AND TAKENAKA TALKED ...
..THAT WHEN TAKENAKA LEFT..
YEAH
WELL, I'M GOING HOME NOW.
...HE LOOKED MORE REFRESHED THAN MINORU AND I DID AFTER OUR BATH.
SEE YOU.
OKAY
I'LL BE FINE.
THE STREETS ARE WELL LIGHTED AND THERE ARE LOTS OF PEOPLE WALKING THEIR DOGS
WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT IN CAREFUL GOING HOME



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...TAKENAKA-YA?
WHAT DID...
YES?
DAD
SHHHk
KLAK
WHAT ?
HMM.. I SEE SO THAT'S IT.
Wow - Misaeu don't get on the bedding, Al.
OH THIS AND THAT.
ISN'T HIS FATHER AT HOME?
I GUESS IF WE HAD A GIRL SHE'D HAVE THE SAME SORT OF PROBLEMS.
IT'LL BE NOTHING...
THAT DOESN'T ...
ONE TIME HE SAID HE WAS A MAMA'S BOY.
HIS DAD'S A SEAMAN AND HE ONLY COMES HOME ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR.

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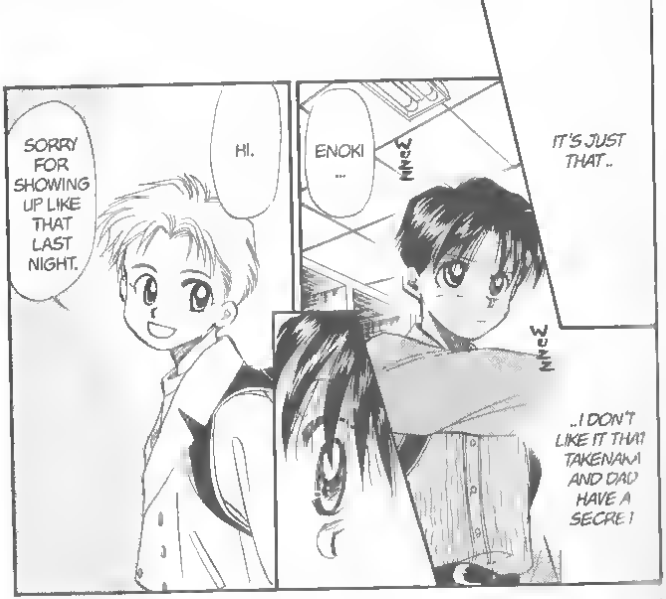
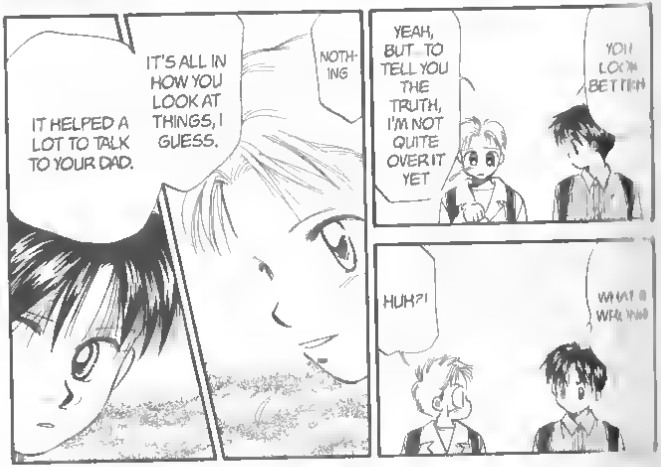
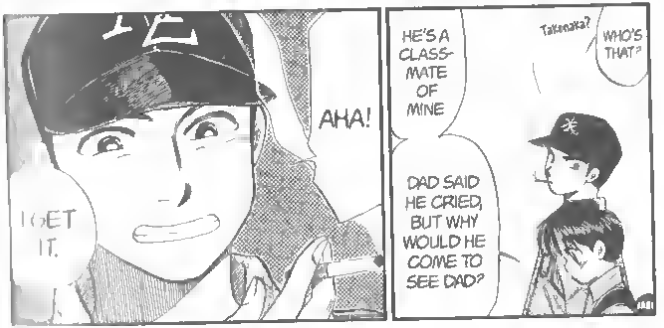
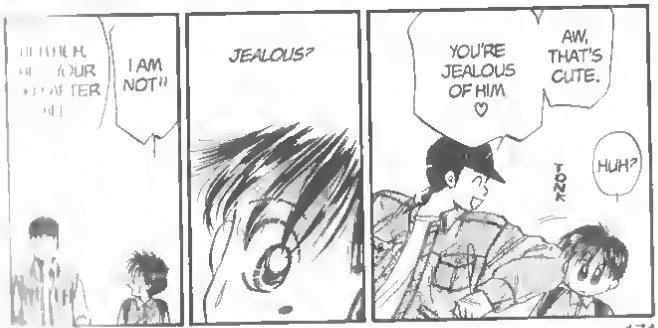



IT HELPED A LOT TO TALK TO YOUR DAD.
IT'S ALL IN HOW YOU LOOK AT THINGS, I GUESS.
NOTHING
YEAH, BUT TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M NOT QUITE OVER IT YET
YOU LOOK BETTER
HUH?!
WHAT A WEIRDO





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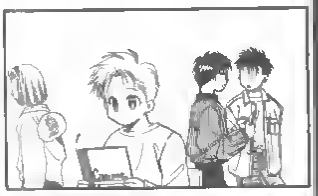
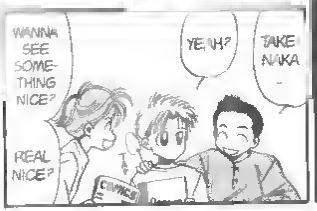
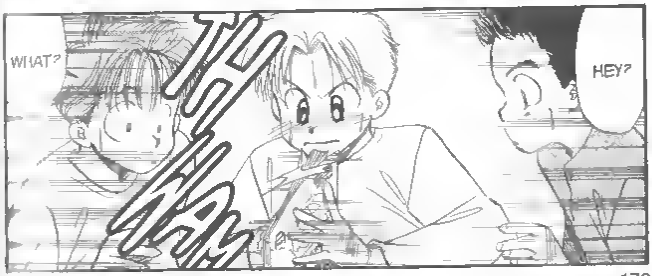
THAT WAS DIFFERENT!!
BUT YOU LOOKED AT THE PICTURES OF THOSE GIRLS THE OTHER DAY.
HUH?
YOU...
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO LOOK AT STUFF LIKE THIS!!
COMICS







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I HAD A WET DREAM
YOU SEE ..
AT FIRST ..
I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS. I THOUGHT I WAS SICK.
I COULDN'T TALK TO MY MOM ABOUT IT.
BUT AFTER I TALKED TO YOUR DAD..
I UNDERSTOOD WHAT IT WAS.
HE TOLD ME IT'S A NORMAL PHYSIOLOGICAL PHENOMENON.
LATELY...

IT'S BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU AND MY DAD HAD A SECRET CONVERSATION.
KRK
IT'S NOT FAIR.
I DON'T LIKE IT.
TAKENAKA ALWAYS WAS CONSIDERATE OF OTHERS.
I WAS REALLY WORRIED.
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO.
OH.
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU IF IT WAS ALL RIGHT.
I GUESS I THOUGHT YOU COULD HANDLE IT.

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I START TO GET LIGHT-HEADED AND MY HEART FEELS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO BURST
THAT'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT
EVERY TIME I LOOK AT MY CLOSET, I WONDER WHAT I SHOULD DO WITH THE UNDERWEAR I HID THERE.
BUT... IT ISN'T SOME-THING BAD, IS IT?
I'VE BEEN FEELING GUILTY AND DISGUSTING.
...I WAS STARTING TO THINK I WAS EVIL.
BUT IF THERE WAS SOMEONE AT HOME THAT I COULD TALK TO, I MIGHT NOT HAVE FELT SO BAD
IN MY FAMILY, WHENEVER THERE'S A KISSING SCENE ON TV, SOMEONE CHANGES THE CHANNEL.
I THINK THE WAY YOU REACT TO SOMETHING LIKE THIS..
..DEPENDS ON HOW YOU'VE BEEN RAISED.
I..

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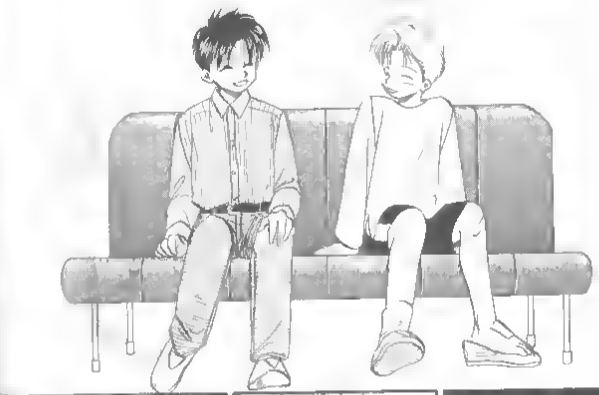
I HAVEN'T TURNED INTO SOMETHING AWFUL.

I'M STILL ME



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Marimo Ragawa's
Let Me Draw What I Want!

On December 28, 1994 a magnitude 6 earthquake hit Hachinohe City where my parents' house is. I had just finished visiting them two days before the quake. How scary...!!

Takuya if he permed his hair and put on his angelic smile!! He looks great.

Oh... I'm so sleepy! I'll go to sleep after I finish this.

In "Sketches from My Notebooks 3" in Volume 4 of Baby and Me I used two characters that I planned to use in the future. I received several letters asking if he was Akamu. If so He's Ryuji Akamu of Hoodoroo Hiyori Kibun (Always Feeling Sunny)

I'd really like to draw Takuya as a wild boy like this, but I don't think my readers would go for it...!!

Today is December 31 1994. To think I'm working on New Year's Eve... How pathetic!

Tomorrow is New Year's Day but I'll probably still be working.

Tomoko looking elegant. It's fun to draw pretty girls.

Minoru when he was tiny.

Ubb?

My goal for this year is to take a trip with my assistants. I hope we can do it. Okay, assistants--work! Work! Heh heh heh

This year I'm going to see the museum. I love Paris in March. Good and I ate in it.

I want to...

Chapter 56 / The End

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